

FIVE WAYS TO SHARE YOUR STORY IN GROUP

Authentic relationships require closeness. To grow closer to the members of your group, they need to get to know you and you need to get to know them—quickly. The best way we've found to do that is to have each group member share their story in 10 minutes.

The purpose of sharing stories is to help the members of your group get to know one another quickly and feel comfortable sharing. But not all of us are natural storytellers. We're not all eager to tell our story. We're afraid we might tell our story out of order or get lost while we're sharing. We don't want to forget important details or withhold vital parts of our story by accident. The question is, how can we share our story in a way that effectively communicates to others?

Then there's the question of how much to share. The more you share, the more your fellow group members will feel comfortable sharing with you. Your leaders set the tone for how much to share.

Here are five ways you can structure your story to help communicate the most important details and connect with the members of the group.

1. The "3-3-3" Story

Group members share three key people, three key places, and three key events that have shaped who they are today.

2. The "Top 10 List" story

Group members share the top 10 things they think the rest of the group needs to know about them.

3. The "2 x 4" Story

Group members spend two minutes talking about four aspects of their lives: family of origin, current family (if different), spiritual journey, and desired future.

4. The "Five Things God Uses" Story

Group members provide one example of how God has used these five things to grow their faith:

1. Practical Teaching
2. Providential Relationships
3. Private Discipline
4. Personal Ministry
5. Pivotal Circumstances

5. The "Family Then, Family Now, Faith Journey" Story

Group members discuss the family in which they grew up and the way it shaped them, their current family, and their faith journey.

NOTE TO LEADERS:

For each person sharing their 10-minute story, set up two timers: one for 8 minutes to serve as a warning and one for 10 minutes to be a “hard stop.” Remind your group that they will have more time to get to know one another over the course of the group. This is simply an exercise to accelerate the process. You can choose one of the methods above for everyone in your group or give members a choice.

